

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
March 17, 2014
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, March 17, 2014, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Hall, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 10, 2014, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the minutes of the executive session meeting held on February 10, 2014, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

William Padien asked for support for the school budget at the Town Council's first budget workshop being held tomorrow evening. The school budget was reduced by almost \$87,000 by the Town Manager and Finance Director.

Mr. Hicks reported that the finance report is similar to where we were last month. The required severance payment has pushed us slightly to the negative, but purchasing has been put on hold until a little closer to the end of the year to see if we can bring it into the black. A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the finance report through February 28, 2014, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that there was very little difference in attendance between this February vacation period and last year's.

Average Daily Attendance Before and After February Break				
	Day Before	Week Before	Day After	Week After
February 2013	72.0	87.5	83.0	88.4
February 2014	76.7	78.5	89.7	93.1

Mr. Hicks submitted a memorandum with the 2013 fall NECAP results in reading, math, and writing. He stated that very often we don't have enough students (at least 10 in a class) to report for each grade, and because of this he started grouping each grade over a three-year period to compare with the state and other districts. While there are ups and downs, we have consistently improved the number of students who read with distinction. Mr. Hicks stated that we are tied with several K-12 schools in reading, but the only two districts that have higher scores are Barrington and East Greenwich. This is the last year that students in grades 3-8 will take the NECAPs and next year's juniors will be the last to take them for graduation.

Mr. Hicks stated that the issue of middle grades organization came up at last month's meeting and he wanted to give the School Committee a status report. Block Island School operates as a

K-12 school by sharing the facility and unified arts teachers with all students in the building and in classes during the same hours. In other ways, Block Island School operates as an elementary and a secondary school, and also as self-contained K-4, teamed 5-7, and compartmentalized 8-12. Because of this, any model would have a ripple effect K-12. Currently we provide 450 minutes of instructional time in language arts per week, 300 minutes in math, and 235 minutes of science and social studies. With Mrs. Lacoste retiring at the end of this year and another retirement expected within the next year or so, the administration began discussing whether there were better ways to organize the instruction in the middle grades. He outlined several options in a memo, including making grade 5 self-contained like the current K-4 classes, adding grade 4 to the mix, and having one teacher for each discipline (math, English Language Arts, science, and social studies) for grades 4-7. There are benefits to each model, but no alternative is clearly superior to the one we are now using. He plans to continue this discussion, but if no new model jumps out as being superior we will probably stay with the current model.

Old Business

Mr. Hicks reported that the Town Manager's recommended budget to the Town Council contains a school transfer that is \$86,597 less than what we submitted. However, since adoption, the health and dental insurance rates came in less than budgeted, which reduces the gap to \$54,978. The first Town Council budget workshop is scheduled for March 18. Various ideas were discussed regarding how to make up the difference in funding and how to persuade the Town Council to increase our appropriation.

New Business

After conferring with Washington Trust it was recommended that the School Committee not authorize online banking but, instead, write a letter authorizing the Finance Director to obtain information. A motion (Padien, Connor) to have one of the signatories authorize the finance director to obtain banking information from Washington Trust carried with a vote of 5-0.

According to Policy HC: Athletic Compensation, the School Committee will consider additional compensation for a head coach if he has no assistant during the athletic season. Nathaniel Shaw requested an additional coaching stipend for girls' junior high basketball because no assistant coach was found. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Nathaniel Shaw's request for the additional coaching stipend carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of John Tarbox as head coach for varsity baseball, Doug Michel as assistant coach for varsity baseball, Matthew Moran as assistant coach for varsity baseball, Mark Mollicone as head coach for junior high baseball, Jaixen Hall as assistant coach for junior high baseball, Nathaniel Shaw as head coach for varsity softball, and Paul Hemingway as assistant coach for varsity softball carried with a vote of 4-0 with Ann Hall recusing herself.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Nathaniel Shaw as assistant coach for junior high softball carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

Mr. Hicks reported that the April meeting was scheduled for Tuesday the 15th because he had a conflict. However, this is no longer the case and asked if the School Committee preferred to

meet on Monday, April 14. A motion (Padien, Doyle) to move April's meeting from the 15th to the 14th carried with a vote of 5-0.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:05 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:41 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to seal the executive session minutes carried with a vote of 5-0.

The following vote was taken during executive session: A motion (Connor, Hall) to have William Padien and Christopher Willi negotiate with Marsha Gutierrez to update her contract carried with a vote of 5-0. Mr. Hicks will serve as a resource.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:44 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: April 14, 2014